**Rwanda SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND consolidated ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT- rwanda**

**Reporting PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Rwanda Sustainable Development Fund- Annual Progress Report Summary - 1 January – 31 December 2020**

During the reporting period (2020), the Rwanda Sustainable Development Fund contributed results under the 3 pillars of UNDAP II (2018/2023): Economic Transformation, Social Transformation and Transformational Governance Pillar; the fund contributed to all 6 outcomes of UNDAP II:

* By 2023, people in Rwanda benefit from more inclusive, competitive, and sustainable economic growth that generates decent work and promotes quality livelihood for all. (**UNDAP Outcome 1**)
* By 2023, Rwandan institutions and communities are more equitably, productively and sustainably managing natural resources and addressing climate change and natural disasters. **(UNDAP Outcome 2)**
* By 2023, people in Rwanda, particularly the most vulnerable, enjoy increased and equitable access to quality education, health, nutrition and WASH services. (**UNDAP Outcome 3**)
* By 2023, people in Rwanda, particularly the most vulnerable, have increased resilience to both natural and man-made shocks and enjoy a life free from all forms of violence and discrimination. (**UNDAP Outcome 4)**.
* By 2023, people in Rwanda benefit from enhanced gender equality, justice, human rights, peace, and security. (**UNDAP Outcome 5**)
* By 2023, people in Rwanda participate more actively in democratic and development processes and benefit from transparent and accountable public and private sector institutions that develop evidence-based policies and deliver quality services. (**UNDAP Outcome 6**)

The full UNCT annual results report is accessible: <https://rwanda.un.org/en/124042-one-un-country-annual-results-report-2019-2020>

Below is a snapshot of MPTF, Rwanda SDF contribution to the following 5 Joint programmes:

1. ***Joint program Leveraging the Full Potential of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment to Achieve Rwanda’s Transformation***.
* The Joint Programme on Gender contributes to the achievements of outcomes 1, 4, 5, and 6 of the UNDAP II.
* The participating UN agencies that received funds through MPTF are UN Women and IOM. Other JP PUNOs are UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and OHCHR.
* The Total approved budget per project document is **USD 19,096,661** and the Total MPTF /JP Contribution is 10 000 000 SEK (approx. **1 000 000 USD**). In 2020, MPTF transferred $622,108 under this JP. The total contribution including agencies core funds is **USD 5,246,913.**

*Purpose*

The main objective of the Joint Programme is to ensure that "Women and girls, especially the most vulnerable, participate in, contribute to and benefit from political, economic and social transformation in Rwanda".

*Achievements of the Fund*

Through the One UN Joint Programme on Gender, promising gains on gender equality and women’s empowerment were registered over the reporting period. These gains include the strategic support and technical assistance leading up to the restructuring of the National Gender and Family Cluster; the normative support through the contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, under which the implementation of six recommendations on gender equality and women’s empowerment was rated highly satisfactorily by the Human Rights Council; the policy support that culminated into the revision of the National Gender Policy in 2020 (to be reviewed and approved by the cabinet next year). The new draft policy identifies eight strategic priority areas including women’s economic empowerment, gender mainstreaming in all sectors and district development plans, engaging Men, addressing negative social norms, and increasing accountability. This was the result of a multi-stakeholder collaboration, bringing together national institutions, civil society organizations and the One UN (namely UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP, FAO, WFP and UNICEF) to provide strategic and technical support with a view to enhance the policy framework for gender equality in Rwanda.

The Joint Programme on Gender continues to contribute to further strengthening the national accountability systems on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE). Over the reporting period and despite the difficult context due to COVID-19 in 2020, the JP Gender through its national partners facilitated one of the most successful Gender Accountability Days (GAD) to date. The GAD attracted over 500 community and village leaders, leading to the community-based signing of contracts and commitments to advance gender equality. One of the specific commitments made was to challenge social and cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequalities, discrimination and SGBV in the Eastern Province, one of the most severe hit provinces when it comes to SGBV and teenage pregnancies.

Further investment was made into the capacity enhancement of SGBV service providers through the JP Gender, with targeted support to legal service providers, prosecution, and psychosocial and medical service providers. These were vital services during the year 2020 to address the increased number of teen pregnancies and to respond to when a drastic increase of SGBV cases resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the UN continued to leverage foundational studies and assessments, including the rapid gender assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on women and men in Rwanda, the UN report on the socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 in Rwanda, as well as the ongoing study on trade barriers for women. The findings and recommendations of these various studies have contributed to and informed the One UN Joint Programme in support to the Social Economic Recovery Plan (COVID-19 JP SERP) and continues to inform evidence-based programming and advocacy.

1. ***Joint Youth Programme***
* The Joint Programme on Youth contributed to the achievements of the outcomes 1,3,4 and 6 of the UNDAP II
* The participating UN agencies that received funds through MPTF are UNDP and UNWOMEN. Other JP PUNOs are UNFPA, WHO and UNESCO.
* The total approved budget per project document is **USD 12,753,540**

and the MPTF /JP Contribution is **USD 256,340**. The total contribution including agencies core funds and other donors is**13,367,897 USD.**

*Purpose*

The Joint Youth Programme has mainly 3 key objectives: (1) increased youth (girls and boys) access to decent jobs in Rwanda; (2) empowerment of youth to fully engage in policy-making and civic engagement; and (3) increased youth use of health services and adoption of healthy lifestyle practices. These objectives align the Programme with the UN’s renewed Youth Strategy, contributing to the advancement in Rwanda of each of the Strategy’s three pillars: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.

*Achievements of the Fund*

The Joint Youth Programme contributed to the economic empowerment of young men and women with a particular attention to the most vulnerable. Through the YouthConnekt initiative, 2,851 jobs (1,454 Females and 1,397 Males) through the Eco brigade initiative aims at creating livelihood opportunities through environmental protection. More than 1,240 jobs were created for vulnerable youth (1,154 Female, 86 Male) through the provision of technical and financial support including the provision of working capital (such as financial support to rent workshops), training and start-up toolkits to set-up their business in the field of tailoring, shoe making and hair dressing. The YouthConnekt mentorship programme successfully provided mentorship and coaching services to 441 young entrepreneurs with an objective of addressing the identified skill gaps, inadequate entrepreneurship skills, limited access to opportunities as well as the limited access to finance opportunities, therefore contributing to ensuring the sustainability of their business and the creation of sustainable jobs.

The COVID-19 crisis disproportionally impacted young people on many fronts including mental and physical health, learning, professional development, and civic engagement. With an objective of addressing the specific challenges faced by the youth due to the pandemic, the Joint Youth Programme supported the implementation of the national youth resilience plan developed by the Ministry of Youth and Culture. The specific objectives of this comprehensive plan were to enhance the strategic mobilisation and communication among the youth, to maintain the sanitation guidelines, to support the youth innovations developed as a response to COVID-19 as well as to sustain existing youth enterprises and mitigate Post COVID-19 unemployment prospective. It is within that framework that the One UN and KOICA provided technical and financial support to build 30 handwashing stations among all national youth centres for health prevention measures, to support 76 young innovators who have been developing solutions to respond to COVID19 as well as to 81 existing young entrepreneurs whose businesses have been affected by COVID-19 through a 500,000USD young entrepreneurs resilience fund as well as to support innovative national awareness raising campaign through TV and social media aimed at mobilizing youth to stay productive while staying at home and ensure a respect of the COVID19 prevention guidelines.

The Joint Youth Programme also contributed to the health empowerment of the youth. The i-accelerator initiative (supported by UNFPA and implemented by Imbuto Foundation), a business acceleration program aimed at supporting young people to develop solutions to raise awareness among their peers on Sexual and Reproductive health issues, supported 32 youth-led start-ups through training, mentorship and financial support.

1. ***One UN support to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda for data generation and use of evidence-based planning***
* The Joint Programme on Data contributed to the results of the outcome 6 of the UNDAP II.
* The participating UN agency that received funds through MPTF is UNFPA. Other JP PUNOs are UNWOMEN, WHO and UNICEF.
* The total approved budget per project document is **USD 5,648,550;** and the MPTF /JP Contribution is **USD 622,108**; the total contribution including agencies core funds is **USD 1,635,886**.

*Purpose*

The purpose of the Joint Programme on data is to increase the technical and financial capacity of Government institutions and civil society organizations at the national and subnational level to generate, disseminate and use quality disaggregated data aligned to the SDGs to inform policies and programmes in development and humanitarian settings.

*Achievements of the Fund*

Over the reporting period (January-December 2020), the programme focused on supporting the capacity building of national statistical systems to prepare and undertake national data collection and dissemination as follow:

Integrated Household Living Conditions Surveys (EICV 2019-2020): technical and financial support were timely provided to National Institute of Statistics in Rwanda (NISR) to ensure the successful conduct of high-quality data collection and analysis.

2019-2020 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey Conducted: NISR was supported to successfully conduct 2019-2020 data collection using computers assisted personal interviews, data analysis and toward the end of the year, a workshop was conducted for the dissemination of the key indicator report in December 2020. The detailed analysis and report writing are ongoing, the dissemination of full DHS6 is planned in the second half of 2021.

Rwanda Population and Housing census (RPHC 2022): The JP on data extended its support to NISR in ensuring the best technical and financial support is provided to implement the preparation phases of the census including the expertise in Geographic Information System  (GIS), procurement of the advanced IT equipment such as computers and tablets.

Strengthened Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System: in a bid to maintain the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System online, continuous financial and technical support were provided to ensure monthly internet subscription, and the capacity building for stakeholders.

Capacity building for data analysis, dissemination and use: technical and financial support has been provided to NISR to building capacity of data users through engagement with universities on infographics, lecturers/researchers, journalists, and reading data with children.

1. ***ONE UN Joint Programme on Enhancing Climate Resilient and Integrated Agriculture in Disaster Prone Areas of Rwanda***
* The Joint Programme on Climate contributed to the results of the outcome 2 of the UNDAP II.
* The participating UN agencies that received funds through MPTF are UNDP and FAO.
* The Total approved budget per project document is USD2,930,025; and the MPTF /JP Contribution is USD 1,244,216; the total contribution including agencies core funds is USD 2,073,837.

*Purpose*

The objective of the Joint Programme is to improve women and men farmers’ livelihoods and climate resilience through the adoption of agro-ecological production technologies, improved climate information-based planning and early warning in the selected drought and landslide prone areas of the country.

*Achievements of the Fund*

Through the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and Rwanda Meteorological Agency and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Youth and Culture, districts and local communities, the Joint Programme on climate resilient and integrated agriculture supported Rwandan institutions and communities to strengthen their capacities for addressing climate change and building their resilience. The support and collaboration entail capacity building trainings and distribution of supplies/materials to help in integrated farming and on weather advisory.

With the collaboration of the participating agencies in this programme and partners, activities such as Greening Internally Displaced Person (IDP) model villages in critical areas, strengthening the national capacity for production of agriculture related weather data and forecast products, biogas renewable energy assessment, farming using smart agriculture techniques and creation of start-up projects on climate resilient agriculture were realized to respond to persistent challenges identified as obstacles to resilience and better livelihoods of small scale farmers where the agricultural productivity needs to be boosted in a sustainable and resilient manner, climate information that has to be strengthened, integrated development programme / green Villages to be ‘greened’, access to sustainable energy that has to be enhanced comprehensively and where educated youth needs to be engaged in agricultural transformation.

1. ***JP RWEE: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in (Rwanda)***
* The JP RWEE contributed to the results of outcomes 1,2,3,5 and 6 of the UNDAP II.
* The participating UN agencies that received funds through MPTF are WFP, FAO, IFAD and UNWOMEN.
* The total approved budget per project document is USD 4,248,246; and the MPTF /JP contribution is US$ 987,875; the total contribution including other donors is USD 3,033,146

*Purpose*

The Joint Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE) aims to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development, targeting four outcome areas: improved food and nutrition security; increased income to secure their livelihoods; enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies, and programs; and a more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women.

*Achievements of the Fund*

The implementation of Rwanda JP RWEE in 2020 have sustained the gains attained over the past years in terms of supporting women smallholder farmers where it has enhanced their food security status, access to productive assets, access to markets, increased participation of women in leadership in local structures as well as up lifting the socio-economic wellbeing of supported women majority of whom are vulnerable, poor and semi-illiterate. During the implementation period, the JP RWEE supported 19 cooperatives composed of 1,986 beneficiaries (1,653 women and 333 men) in the Districts of Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru.

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak affected the livelihoods of beneficiaries, causing a delay in the implementation of JP RWEE activities and some of the Programme interventions were scaled up to benefit some of the most vulnerable women groups/cooperatives in the districts of Muhanga, Gakenke and Nyagatare where twelve cooperatives/groups composed of 1,181 members (927 women and 254 men) were supported with improved seeds, which are expected to contribute to improve their livelihoods and ability to cope with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. In order to address the challenge of maize postharvest handling and to continue enhance capacity of rural women to reduce post-harvest losses in maize value chain and ensure good quality of the produce for market and consumers, the JP RWEE has supported Cooperatives/Groups with three (3) maize drying halls in two districts (Kirehe, Ngoma).

In addition, activities oriented towards increased awareness on good practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the distribution of hygiene kits (including protective face masks, hand washing facilities (Kandagirukarabe) and soaps) took place in June 2020. A total of 5,000 beneficiaries (3, 435 women and 1,565 men) grouped into twelve cooperatives of

Gakenke, Muhanga and Nyagatare districts received hygiene kits and over 10,000 masks were distributed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among JP RWEE beneficiaries.

The Programme also supported trainings of 360 Champions (290 Women and 70 Men) from eight cooperatives on Gender Action Learning System (GALS). The champions also train their fellows, as well as family, community and cooperative members. Through testimonies, GALS champions indicated that they have been able to deal with diverse effects of COVID-19 where apart from leadership skills acquired through GALS, they were also able to use the savings for their socio-economic wellbeing (they were able to buy health insurance, food and other essential items at home).

The Programme supported a study on assessing agriculture labor saving technologies for women in Rwanda. The study has identified existing labor-saving technologies in agriculture for small scale women farmers, assessed existing gaps, analyzed factors influencing women’s time constraints and drudgery in the agriculture sector, and proposed possible interventions and recommendations for gender sensitive programming. The implementation of those recommendations will add value to the economic empowerment of women.